

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00

OMB-01 ABF-01 /061 W

----- 104778

R 110613Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5038

INFO COMNAVTELCOM

DOD

CINCPAC

NAVCOMMSTA HAROLD E HOLT EXMOUTH WA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0949

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AS, MARR

SUBJECT: RECUPERATIVE LEAVE FOR AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL AT HOLT STATION

REF: A) COMNAVTELECOMMCMD WASHDC 0722432 FEB 75

B) NAVCOMMSTA HAROLD E HOLT 0806002 FEB 75

1. THE GENERAL CONTRACT FOR U.S. EMPLOYED, AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT HOLT STATION CALLS FOR 1 ROUND TRIP EACH YEAR TO LOCATION WHERE ORIGINALLY HIRED FOR MARRIED PERSONNEL AND TWO ROUND TRIPS EACH YEAR FOR SINGLE PERSONNEL.

2. THE COMMANDING OFFICER HOLT STATION HAS SUBMITTED A MESSAGE OUTLINING LIKELY IMPACT OF DECISION TO DEFER REIMBURSEMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL FOR RECUPERATIVE LEAVE FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS FISCAL YEAR, REFTEL B, IN RESPONSE TO A MESSAGE ON BUDGET STRINGENCY FROM COMNAVTELCOM, REFTEL A.

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3. FRICTIONS BETWEEN GOA AND USG OVER HOLT STATION HAVE BEEN

REDUCED MARKEDLY IN THE PAST YEAR. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT DURING THE RECENT ALP FEDERAL CONFERENCE AT TERRIGAL THAT THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AMENDING AGREEMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STATION WOULD BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS HAS EFFECTIVELY SILENCED LEFT-WING ALP CRITICS OF THE INSTALLATION, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

4. THIS BEING THE CASE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME TO DEFER PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY US\$45,000 IN TRAVEL FUNDS FOR AUSTRALIAN CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT THE BASE UNTIL NEXT FISCAL YEAR, WHICH COULD CREATE LABOR MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. SUCH DIFFICULTIES WOULD OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CRITICS OF THE FACILITY TO CREATE MORE DIFFICULTIES FOR US.

5. FOR STATE - EA - AMBASSADOR GREEN IS FAMILIAR WITH DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO HOLT STATION AND WE RECOMMEND YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH HIM, AS WELL AS WITH COMNAVTELCOM.

6 ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE FUNDS PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED FOR THE RECUPERATIVE TRAVEL OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL AT HOLT STATION IN FY75 NOT BE REDUCED. SINCE FIRST EMPLOYEES WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED HAVE SCHEDULED TRIP FOR FEB 15 REQUEST URGENT DECISION AND REPLY.
HARROP

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NNN

Message Attributes

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